

416 Rec'd PTO 18 FEB 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Sylvain ORENGA

U.S. National Stage of PCT/FR98/01717

Filed: February 18, 2000

Docket No.: 105454

For: CULTURE AND IDENTIFICATION MEDIA SPECIFIC OF DIFFERENT SPECIES
OF CANDIDA AND ANALYSIS METHODSPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

*ANS
AT
B1*

1. (Amended) [Medium for the culturing and specific identification of yeasts,]
Culture medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *Candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeast, comprising a chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate which can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme of the hexosaminidase family, **characterized in that** the medium also comprises at least one compound which selectively inhibits the hexosaminidase activity of *c. tropicalis*.

Claim 4, line 1, change "Claims 1 to 3" to [Claim 1--]

Claim 5, line 1, change "Claims 1 to 4" to [Claim 1--]

Claim 6, line 1, change "Claims 1 to 5" to [Claim 1--]

Claim 8, line 1, change "any of the preceding claims" to [Claim 1--]

Claim 10, line 1, change "Claims 1 to 9" to [Claim 1--]

Claim 11, line 1, change "Claims 9 and 10" to [Claim 9--]

Claim 12, line 1, change "Claims 10 and 12" to [Claim 10--]

A2

13. (Amended) [Medium for the detection and specific identification of yeasts,]
Medium for the specific identification and/or differentiation of *candida albicans* and *Candida tropicalis* yeasts, characterized in that it comprises two substrates, a first chromogenic or fluorogenic substrate which can be hydrolyzed by an enzyme from the hexosaminidase family,